



State Representative Robert M. Ward

Dear Friends,

The 2006 legislative session was marked by many successes and bipartisan support for a number of issues that will directly affect all of Connecticut's residents. We concluded our work on time and with an adjusted budget that falls within the constitutional state spending cap.

There is something for everyone in this budget.

With the leadership of Gov. M. Jodi Rell we approved a sweeping transportation plan that will help unlock the gridlock on our highways and roads.

Our House Republican caucus made job creation and tax relief for businesses a priority.

As Minority Leader, I am proud to say that we were successful in getting both accomplished despite the relatively short session that ended the first week of May. Our Jobs for the 21st Century program is a combination of tax cuts for businesses and incentives for workers and those about to enter the workforce to pursue careers that we know will be in high demand.

There will be greater oversight of the UConn 2000 and 21st Century construction programs and tighter auditing and code compliance.

Homeowners will see their property tax credit increased from \$400 to \$500 and the corporate surcharge businesses pay will be eliminated.

I believe the biggest failure of the session was the refusal by the majority party to enact eminent domain reform despite numerous hearings and public pledges to rein in abusive governmental agencies that seize private property to benefit private developers.

On a personal note, I announced this spring that I would not seek re-election to the House of Representatives at the conclusion of my term in January after serving the 86th House District for 22 years. I have always been grateful to my constituents for the faith and support they have placed in me over 11 terms in office and have been privileged to represent you in Hartford.

I will continue to work for my district every day to improve the quality of life in whatever ways possible. As always, I look forward to hearing from you so please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



State Representative



ROBERT M. WARD

Proudly Serving the 86th District

North Branford ★ East Haven ★ Wallingford

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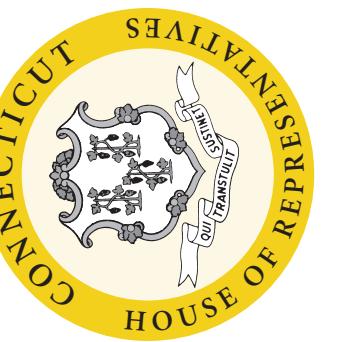
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
ROBERT M. WARD
Proudly Serving the 86th District
North Branford ★ East Haven ★ Wallingford



Representative Ward
speaks on the floor of the
House during the 2006
Legislative Session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

The Roadmap for the Future

The second phase of a sweeping approach to solving our transportation problems was approved in strong bipartisan fashion. This plan authorizes an additional \$2.3 billion to create a workable commuter rail system linking New Haven, Hartford and Springfield, the expansion of the Shoreline East system and major improvements to I-84 and I-95. Over the next decade we will see strong regional transportation hubs that will get more car and truck traffic off of I-95 and other highways and allow commuters to flow more freely. This approach has significant implications for our environment, economic development and preserving our highest-in-the-nation standard of living in Connecticut.

Environment

The Clean Car law will go a long way to improving the air we breathe. Air pollution did not occur overnight and it will take some time to reduce the amount of pollutants in our atmosphere. Beginning in 2009, the Department of Environmental Protection commissioner will be required to establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for all cars and trucks sold or leased in Connecticut. In addition, the commissioner will also establish or contract for a public education initiative to enlighten Connecticut residents about the effects greenhouse gases have on our environment.

We also created a lobster trap buy-back program and an economic assistance fund for commercial fishermen who have seen their businesses decimated by the destruction of the Long Island Sound fisheries beginning in 1999.

Creating Jobs

Much of our job creation agenda presented at the outset of the session was enacted though work remains if we are to remain competitive with other states. I fought against measures that would drive employers out of Connecticut, including punitive mandates that increase health care and energy costs. We began the phaseout of the property tax on new manufacturing equipment to make it easier for businesses to expand and we were successful in eliminating the corporate income tax surcharge.

Unfortunately, the majority party rejected elimination of the estate tax for partisan reasons.

Education/ Fair School Funding

The method devised to distribute state education funds, the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula is broken and must be fixed. Nearly 28 percent of these state funds go to the state's three largest cities where only 12 percent of public school students live. This year the legislature also made contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust Fund, CHET, tax deductible up to \$10,000 for families and \$5,000 for single filers.

Eminent Domain

I co-sponsored the law that established the office of Property Rights Ombudsman to help property owners with eminent domain procedures and to mediate disputes with government agencies. However, the majority party's refusal to address the central problems with eminent domain remains a major failure of the session. Since the troubling U.S. Supreme Court decision was handed down in June of last year, 25 other states have acted to restrict government's ability to seize private property to benefit private developers. Connecticut must join these other states.

Teacher Pension Funding

I will continue to advocate for a constitutional amendment for full funding of the state teacher pension, an obligation that Connecticut has to state educators. I voted to fully fund the pension over the next two years by adding \$246 million of the current budget surplus to the account. But if we fail to enact permanent funding and shortchange the pension accounts as we have in the past, we will leave our children and grandchildren with a bill that they can't pay.

I believe everyone who is promised a pension deserves one, whether it is in the public or private sector.

Rainy Day Fund

Our House Republican caucus made prudent use of our budget surplus a priority and we did just that. Roughly \$189 million in additional surplus money was put into the rainy day fund to hedge against future downturns in the state's economy. That brings the total rainy day fund to nearly \$1 billion.

Consumer Protection

Protecting personal identification from companies and individuals is a growing concern. The legislature banned the use of the Internet or e-mail to acquire information by posing as an Internet company without that business's authorization. Identity theft costs billions every year and ranks at the top of all consumer complaints annually.



Bob addresses crowd at the capitol during a "Keep the Promise" rally. The event was intended to get the majority leaders in the legislature to call for a constitutional amendment to protect teacher pensions. The majority leaders never called the amendment.

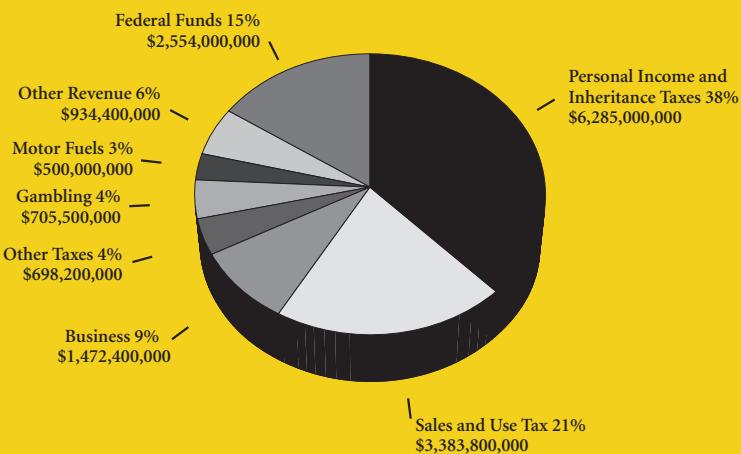
State Budget

The legislature added \$129 million to the adjusted tax and spending plan, including increasing town aid by \$115 million a year. The property tax credit will also be increased from \$400 to \$500 and the 15 percent corporate surcharge will be eliminated for a \$35 million savings.

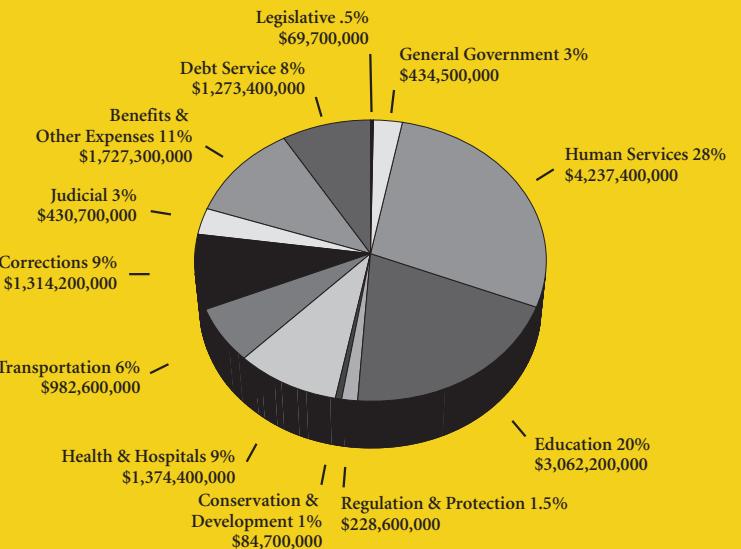
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.